

Submitter: K B
On Behalf Of: ALL LEGAL OREGONIANS
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I went for a walk at the Sandy River Delta area aka 1,000 acres and as I walked through the trails, I was in total disbelief, the area that I have so proudly called my backyard since I was a child (50 y/o) is littered with massive amounts of "stuff". You name it, litter, torn apart bicycles, food containers (plastic, metal, cardboard), even a car engine and trails of misc "stuff" strewn throughout where wild animals are supposed to comfortably habitate. The camps on the trails gave me the feeling like I'M THE ONE ENCROACHING ON THEIR SPACE, which is an extremely uncomfortable and unsafe feeling when I am just trying to enjoy nature that went from feeling like a beautiful backyard to a disgraceful junkyard! And wildlife suffers with pollution in the waterways and land while getting pushed out of the very space they are entitled to habitate.

I empathize with those that are homeless, mentally ill, drug-addicted, as I have a mental illness that I struggle with daily. I had a sister that was an addict with mental illness and it was painful to know she was out in the cold world being abused by people from all classes of life and then died of overdose/poisoning. I get that this is a one of the most complex issues our state (&country) is facing and needs serious attention, however this is NOT at solution, it is an upside-down, unfathomable way to try to help give dignity and support to those who do not have a roof over their head, suffering with mental illness and/or drug-addiction with lack of discipline from authorities who need to come up with effective solutions.

I believe everyone deserves the right to live somewhere, but if they are abusing the land to extreme and detracting me from getting out of my home into natural spaces to help with my own mental illness, they need to have access to the resources to make the change. If that means mandatory drug/alcohol treatment, more robust mental health resources and designated, regulated homeless mini-home camps (with rules like the rest of us have to follow to live in our neighborhood) then WHY DONT YOU USE THE MARIJUANA TAX DOLLARS for this purpose? Many of the schools in our state have been remodeled for safe space for children to get their education, but now that the schools are upgraded/updated, where is that money going now? It seems like using legal drug funds to help resolve this problem is on-point to help solve the crisis of hard-drugs that come across the border EVERY SINGLE DAY that poisoned my sister. Instead of providing state social funds to all these people fr/ Latin America, close down the border, take care of those who are legal Americans first, ALWAYS!

Use the marijuana taxes to get serious about stopping the fentanyl, meth, heroin, tranq drug trafficking coming in from Mexico with chemicals imported from China

designed to kill the most vulnerable populations.

It may not be on the sidewalk in front of my home YET, but it will be with this bill. It takes away my rights to a clean, safe environment to heal with voluntary therapy, support group and medicine. I am proud of myself that I at the age of 40, I bought a house as a single woman. I'm not addicted to drugs/alcohol, but with a severe mental illness (BPD), I was still able to manage to find the resources to get help. I started working at the age of 10 babysitting, fast food as a teen and on to the cold, heartless corporate world as an adult. All the while it took every ounce of will I had to get myself out of bed each day to go against the grain to survive with an isolating mental disorder working with people who did not sympathize, have compassion for or understand, but only had high expectations to perform in an environment that perpetuated my illness to the point of disability. I found the resources on my own, despite the illness that most of the population DOES NOT understand but instead REJECTS with ignorance!

AWARENESS, RESOURCES DISCIPLINE is the solution NOT penalizing responsible Oregonians!